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California Polytechnic State University

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Contact: Ray Ladd  
(805) 756-7432, [rladd@calpoly.edu](mailto:rladd@calpoly.edu)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**National Contractor Pledges \$300,000 Toward Lab in New Cal Poly Building**

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- One of the nation's largest "heavy civil" contractors -- a firm involved in large, complex projects such as highways, bridges and dams -- has committed \$300,000 to help fund a laboratory in a new building planned for Cal Poly's College of Architecture and Environmental Design.

Watsonville-based Granite Construction Company is making the gift for a 2,000-square-foot Granite Construction Heavy/Civil Construction Laboratory that will be used for courses in the university's construction management program. The facility will be stocked with models, sample materials and other items pertinent to learning heavy construction, as well as re-configurable student computer workstations, areas for team projects and a sand table for demonstrating heavy equipment movement with models.

"Cal Poly has emerged as one of the premier construction management programs in the country," said Granite's president and chief operating officer, William G. Dorey. "Granite is proud to be part of their continued growth.

"Cal Poly's construction management program is recognized across the country for its program content and the quality of its students," Dorey said. "As our company grows, we continually need to recruit well-trained men and women. Granite has been actively recruiting from Cal Poly for more than 20 years, and we have found that a Cal Poly graduate has the ability to take on a leadership role very quickly in our company."

Greg Stratton, a Templeton-based project manager for Granite Construction and an alumnus of Cal Poly's construction management program, echoed Dorey's confidence in Cal Poly's program.

"Cal Poly offers a unique and exciting learning environment that is unmatched throughout the construction industry, where practical experiences are actually applicable to the 'real world,'" Stratton said.

"We are very proud of our partnership with Granite Construction over these last several decades," said Dean of the College of Architecture and Environmental Design R. Thomas Jones. "Preparing students for a profession like construction management is, by definition, dependent on strong relationships with industry leaders like Granite. They help us maintain currency, provide internship opportunities for our students, and provide rewarding careers for our graduates. The creation of the Granite Construction Heavy/Civil Construction Laboratory will ensure that our partnership is strengthened for many decades to come."

The largely state-funded structure that will house the lab and numerous other facilities for the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is scheduled to be built on the campus's South Perimeter Drive within the next few years. A major portion of the building will be used by the Construction Management Department.

Granite Construction, employing about 5,400 people nationwide, is the nation's second-largest highway contractor, building large, technically complex infrastructure projects nationwide including some of the largest segments of the federal interstate highway system. The company is also a large producer of construction materials.

For more information about the new building, call Ray Ladd, the college's associate director of advancement, at (805) 756-7432.

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California Polytechnic State University

San Luis Obispo, CA 93407

805.756.7266

[polynews@calpoly.edu](mailto:polynews@calpoly.edu)